



Part 4: Dealing with Difficult People

Big Idea

This week, Pastor Chris shares a much-needed message on the biblical steps we can take to deal with difficult people in our lives. One thing in life is certain—we will experience difficult situations and relationships, whether it is through our unmet expectations or someone disrespecting us or any number of other relational issues. We all struggle with difficult people and situations at some point, and it is easy to point the finger at someone else. While our flesh tells us the root of the problem is others, God wants us to come to Him and let Him do a changing work in us.

As we seek God, there are five biblical steps we can take in dealing with difficult people. First, we must overlook the offense from them. In doing so, we can look past the offense to what's really going on in their lives and love them in spite of circumstance. Second, we must pray for them. While our prayers for others may not change them, they will change us and give us a healthy perspective. Next, we must also forgive difficult people in our lives. Doing so won't change the past, but it can change our future. Next, we must bless them. However counterintuitive it may seem, we must speak well of difficult people—our language is powerful, and we create our world with our words. Finally, we should do good to the difficult people in our lives.

While these steps may go against everything our flesh tells us, there is blessing to be found in our obedience to God's ways. Remember that the forgiven forgive—freely we have received, so freely we should give!

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

Discussion Questions

How do you usually respond to difficult people in your life?

How can you respond in a biblical, healthy way to the difficult people in your life?

How can you see past people's behavior to the pain and struggle in their life that may be the root cause? How can this change your perspective and response to them?

Prayer Focus

Thank God for the opportunity to interact with difficult people and be a light in the darkness for them. Ask Him to work in your heart and teach you how to love others as He loves you and them. Ask Him for help in praying and forgiving difficult people and speak blessings over them.

Next Steps

It may be difficult to start, but take intentional steps to deal with difficult people biblically. Doing so will bring blessing into your own life and set you free from the chains of unforgiveness.

Leader Tip

Encourage your group to work on the relationships they have with the difficult people in their life. Share how you deal with difficult people in your own life and how it has changed your relationships. Ask group members to share their own experiences.